

# AMAA news

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Avedisian School students gaze at the prototype of their new school building now under construction



## AMAA NEWS

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## Editorial Message

# Rooftop Rooster Reminder

Levon Filian

**O**n a recent episode of the popular television show Jeopardy, the last question that determined who became the day's champion was about religious symbols. The question was, "What does the rooster on church rooftops signify?" Of course, many of us know the answer is Peter who denied Jesus.

Most church steeples in Europe are topped with a rooster. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century, it was decided that church steeples must have a rooster to remind Christians of Peter's betrayal of Jesus. "I tell you Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times that you know me." Luke 22:34

As Christians, we are often tempted to deny Jesus. Our love for Him, our trust in Him, and being obedient to His calling to follow Him.

How blessed an assurance it is that Peter's life does not end with that story. With Christ's love, forgiveness on the cross and with His resurrection, He gives us a chance and invites us to a renewed life, a new challenge, to be witnesses like Peter in His kingdom and for His glory.

After the resurrection, Jesus saw Peter and asked Him three times, the number of times Peter had denied Him. "Peter do you love me?" When Peter responded positively, Jesus commanded him to tend his sheep. "When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. John 21:15-17

We at the AMAA want to share the love of Jesus, His birth, His teachings, His suffering on the cross, and His conquering death with His resurrection.

During this recent Easter season, we were challenged to renew our relationship with God, and be witnesses for Him starting from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and Armenia and throughout 23 countries. Please join us to share God's word with your prayers and contributions.

Christ is Risen!

Քրիստոս յարեաւ ի մեռելոց. Օրհնեալ է Յարութիւնը Քրիստոսի:  
"Krisdos haryav ee merelotz. Orhnyal eh Haroutuneh Krisdosi"  
"Christ arose from the dead. Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ"



# AMAA and Lark Present Music For The Soul

Nazareth Darakjian, M.D.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Lark Musical Society have a long history of collaboration bringing sacred music concerts of very high caliber to the Armenian Communities of Southern California. These concerts usually take place during the Lenten season and this year was no exception. On March 2 at 7:30 p.m., the First United Methodist Church of Pasadena was filled with over 500 people in attendance anxious to hear the sacred music program presented by the Lark Musical Society under the auspices of the AMAA. The beautiful church with its grand architecture harkened back to the European cathedrals where the musical pieces in the program saw their World Premieres centuries ago.

The program started with words of welcome by Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Chairman of the Concert Committee, followed by the invocation given by Rev. Ron Tovmassian.

The first piece to be performed was by J.S. Bach. His famous Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, usually played on the organ, was instead performed by the members of the brass quintet "Satin Brass," shedding an interesting and new light upon this epic work. This was followed by Bach's Motet #5 (BWV. 229), "Komm Jesu Komm," an indescribably complex and awe-inspiring tour de force of counterpoint handled with great confidence and strength by Maestro Vatsche Barsoumian and the select group of singers who make up the Lark Geghart Choir.

Next on the program was W.A. Mozart's Motet "*Exsultate, Jubilate*" KV 165, written for soprano and orchestra, performed by the young soprano Shoushik Barsoumian. Shoushik's performance was nothing short of the highest caliber of singing. Her beautiful voice, exquisite coloratura, masterful technique and radiant presence mesmerized the audience, and the applause came long and hard. There was no question Shoushik was the darling of the audience and the star of the evening.

Next came one of Bach's most famous concertos, the *Double Violin Concerto in D Minor* (BWV 1043). The soloists were none other than the world famous violinists, husband and wife duo, Movses Pogossian and Varty



**Maestro Vatsche Barsoumian and Soloist Shoushik Barsoumian**

Manouelian, who were able to bring out all the melodic pleasantries of the concerto without sacrificing its deeper rhythm of devotion which permeates all of Bach's works.

After the intermission, the stage had been set for the piece that was surely the least known among those which had permeated the walls of the church earlier. Verdi's *Quattro Pezzi Sacri (Four Sacred Pieces)* filled the sacred space to its brink by the colossal set of singers and musicians guided by the vigorous hands of Vatsche Barsoumian. Two of the pieces were sung a capella and even though these were subdued and humble pieces they were extremely beautiful. As for the Stabat Mater and the Te Deum they were accompanied with the large and powerful orchestra and one could easily

*Continued on Page 5.....*



# AMAA Brings Christmas Joy to Children Throughout Armenia and Karabagh

The Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA), with the support of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Armenia office, continued its long tradition of organizing Christmas programs throughout Armenia and Karabagh this year for thousands of children bringing them joy and hope.

During Christmas 2012-2013, AMAA-Armenia organized 55 Christmas programs in 44 towns and villages. Over 8,500 children and 2,000 parents participated in these programs. These programs were organized not only for children from the AMAA sponsorship programs and those who attend Sunday schools but also for many others, in order to proclaim the meaning and importance of this great holiday that is the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas programs were held with the help of Christian Education workers and volunteers. The programs featured children who decorated, acted in theatrical presentations, sang, danced and recited Bible verses.

## GYUMRI

The Christmas Program in Gyumri included a play with four different scenes. The play, called "Lost Dreams," is about a naughty girl who finds herself in three different dreams. In the final scene she moves into an empty kingdom where the narrator shows her Jesus' Kingdom where all real dreams come true. The Christmas Programs were held six times in two days with about 700 in attendance. After each performance children received Christmas Joy packages.



*Children of Shirakamut with their Christmas gifts.*



*Children in Stepanakert singing at the Christmas Program.*



*Children in Sisian enjoying the Christmas Program.*



*Children in Vanatzor performing at the Christmas Program.*

## GORIS

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Goris organized a Christmas event in the beautifully decorated hall. The program featured a clown who makes people happy but who is sad because he has a sin which doesn't allow him to be happy. He was able to get rid of the onus after he recognized Jesus and found peace and happiness. In the process he was helped by poor children. They defeated greedy Mrs. Agapi and glutinous Captain Sholts. The program was followed by Christmas songs and prayers.

## YEREVAN

In Yerevan, the "Hayasa" theatrical group of ECA presented a drama called "Princess and Seven Gnomes," which was produced and directed by Noune Abrahamyan. About 1,500 children participated with their families. The Princess was wayward and disobedient to her parents. She disappeared into the woods and saw a house occupied by Gnomes. The Gnomes taught the Princess to love and help one another and told her about the birth of Jesus. The Princess' heart changed and she repented. She came back to the palace and told everyone what



*Hayasa Theatrical Group after their Christmas performance in Yerevan, Armenia.*

happened. At the end of the performance, the children were welcomed by Santa Claus. Today, many members of AMAA's "Hayasa" theatrical group are students at Yerevan State Theatrical Institute. They did their first steps in "Hayasa" and continue to participate in the group's performances. □



*Children in Tashir enjoying the Christmas Program.*



*Children in Kapan depicting the scene of Nativity.*



*Children in Dilijan performing at the Christmas Program.*

## **AMAA and Lark - Continued from Page 3.....**

identify in them Verdi the composer of grand opera. These were some very inspiring as well as uplifting "sacred pieces" that brought the audience to their feet and left them with an indelible impression.

Why Sacred Music? To quote Maestro Barsoumian, it is "the need to renew our love and bond towards God the Creator and Savior." □

# Avedisian School Update

Construction is moving along at the Avedisian High School in Yerevan, Armenia. At the end of February, reinforcement, framework and concrete works of the ground floor slab, beams and foundation were completed on the various sections of the School.

A prototype of the School is featured on the cover of this issue. It is scheduled to be completed in September 2014.



## AMAA-Armenia Partners With Heifer

Gabrielle Worley

In partnership with Heifer Armenia, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) implements a rural development program. The programs are taking place in five communities in Armenia — Arakadzavan, Shirakamut, Berd, Stepanavan and Kichan in Artsakh. The first phase of the project was executed from July-December 2012 and aims at improving the socio-economic situation of families and training and empowering rural youth in these communities where the AMAA operates.

Families are given a pregnant cow and assisted in establishing a family farm. All recipient families are trained in cattle breeding and animal husbandry, farm management and dairy production. Following Heifer International's model,

in the next year, each family should be able to pass on a baby calf to another family in the community, doubling the impact of the project. The milk productivity of these animals is, on average, eight liters daily. The families use the milk to make yogurt, cheese, sour cream, butter and curds for their own consumption and to sell for additional income.

The project has been extremely successful in helping families to gain self-reliance.

The Kyureghyan family sets an inspiring example. Everybody in the village of Shirakamut loves and respects Aghasi and Hripsime Kyureghyan. The couple lives with their three children, Aghasi's 82-year-old mother, Shushan, and their grandchildren.



## AMAA Announces Summer Internship Program 2013

The Armenian Missionary Association is organizing an Internship Program for July 2013. This Program, intended to give young adults from the United States and Canada an excellent opportunity to serve our people in Armenia with missions and ministries supported by the AMAA, is designed to be a time for spiritual growth as well as a hands-on, practical ministry experience.

The Program is for young adults entering their senior year of high school to post-college age (mid-twenties) for a two-week trip to Armenia. The dates are approximately July 8-28, depending on airline ticket availability. The major work will focus on Vacation Bible School and Evangelism.

Interns, with their personal faith and desire to grow in the Armenian heritage, will be spending their time participating in summer camps, worship concerts, church programs and visitations. The group will travel together to familiarize themselves with significant sites related to their cultural heritage, and learn about the important work of the AMAA.

The leadership team will be headed by Rev. Sam Albarian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto, and his wife, Tamar Albarian. They have ministered in Armenia before, taking teams from AEUNA churches. Rev. Albarian and Tamar have a keen interest in reaching the lost for Christ through the ministry of music and worship. In Armenia, they will lead the team in children's camp/VBS ministry and use the medium of music and concerts to conduct evangelistic outreach for children and adults alike. As an integral part of the Program, they will lead the interns in daily Bible study, discussion and prayer. Depending on the special gifts and abilities of the interns, they will also lead them in the outreach efforts in conjunction with the local churches and ministries.

The cost of this Program will primarily be transportation costs which are approximately \$1,700 to \$2,000. Each intern is responsible for raising the cost for the purchase of the airfare for this trip. The cost of passports and visas is the responsibility of each intern. The AMAA will pay for the local Armenia costs (food, housing, local transportation in Armenia, etc.).

The application deadline is May 15, 2013. For further information, please contact Rev. Albarian at [pastor-sam@hayavedtoronto.com](mailto:pastor-sam@hayavedtoronto.com). Candidates will be selected on a first come, first served basis. Those who are accepted into the Program as 2013 interns will receive notification by May 31, along with further information and instructions which will help them prepare for this exceptional experience. □



Aghasi lost his siblings and some other relatives in the devastating earthquake of 1988. He also lost the family's two cows, calves and three goats and he was never able to afford another animal. When his family received a cow along with 29 other families in Shirakamut, they were extremely happy. They named the cow Maral which means "pretty deer" in Armenian. Maral has already given birth to a female calf and bull-calf, bringing life back into the old family barn. Maral is a very productive cow, giving the family more than 15 liters of milk daily. Hripsime prepares cheese and milk for the family to eat and to sell at the market, increasing the family's average income by 35%.

AMAA partnered with Heifer Armenia in order to help people help themselves by providing "a cow rather than a cup." Just one cow made a huge difference in the lives of the Kyureghyans and many other Armenian families who no longer have to rely on temporary aid. They now have a steady source of nutritious food, income and most importantly, the dignity of self-reliance. □

# Altoons Host AMAA Gathering

**O**n December 15, AMAA Board member Alice Altoon and her husband Ron hosted over 60 guests at their beautifully decorated home in California, filled with Christmas decorations and ornaments for the holiday season.

Ron Altoon welcomed the guests and Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, AMAA Minister to Ministers in Armenia, offered the opening prayer.

Edward Avedisian, AMAA Board member and benefactor of the Avedisian School in Yerevan, Armenia, challenged everyone to support the Avedisian School. Mr. Avedisian spoke passionately about his hopes and dream to provide the best education for our children in Armenia.

Joseph Zeronian, President of the AMAA, spoke about the AMAA and invited the guests to be part of the AMAA's vision to build a school in Armenia for our children. Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director, also challenged all to participate in this historic event and help us educate the future generation.

"We want to thank Ken Kevorkian and Jeanmarie Papelian, AMAA Board members and Co-Chairs of the Development Committee, and the Altoons for planning such a lovely evening," said Mr. Filian. □



Alice and Ron Altoon



*L to R: Joyce Philibosian Stein and Dr. John & Mary Kassabian*



*L to R: Pamela Avedisian, Juliette & Dr. Daniel Abdulian, and Edward Avedisian*



*Joseph Zeronian thanks Edward Avedisian for his support to the Avedisian School in Yerevan, Armenia, and updates the guests about the work of the AMAA.*

# AMAA Sponsors

## Appreciation Dinner in Los Angeles

**O**n a balmy February evening, Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, greeted friends as they enjoyed the reception and camaraderie on the veranda of the Wilshire Country Club in Los Angeles. Over 100 significant donors and supporters of the AMAA were hosted to a lovely dinner and an entertaining and informative event. The evening was planned to thank the donors for their generous support of the AMAA and its many projects and worldwide endeavors. Throughout the evening, there was a powerpoint presentation featuring AMAA projects in 23 countries.

The evening opened with an invocation by Rev. Ara Guekguezian, Pastor of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church in Fresno. The program was light and informative with a welcome by Ken Kevorkian, AMAA Board Member and Co-Chair of the Development Committee. Mr. Filian shared important information and highlighted present projects and future needs of the AMAA. Dr. Joseph Zeronian, AMAA President, spoke about the varied projects, the continued need of support to achieve our goals, and the need to complete the various projects being undertaken. He described how the construction and eventual completion of the Avedisian School will offer our children an educational advantage in a state-of-the-art "green" building — the first of its kind in Armenia.

Joyce Stein, ex-officio member of the AMAA Board, closed the evening by expressing how satisfying and important it is to support the AMAA, and to continue a personal commitment to giving. After a delicious dinner and pleasant conversation, the evening closed with a benediction by Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, AMAA Minister to Ministers in Armenia.

"On behalf of the AMAA Development Committee, we thank everyone who attended the event and who support our mission worldwide," said Mr. Kevorkian. □



*Sitting L to R: Michael Barr, Julie & Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, Sylvia & Dr. Mel Cheatham, Joyce & Joe Stein, and Ani Barr*



*Sitting L to R: Dr. Misak & Houri Abdulian, Dr. Daniel & Juliette Abdulian, Dr. Vahe & Seta Nalbandian, Sirvart & Herair Mouradian, and Kohar & Dr. Hovhannes Shnorhokian*



*Sitting L to R: Louise Donelian, Ken & Thelma Kevorkian, Alice & Ron Altoon, and Marilyn & Joseph Zeronian*

# Executive Director

## Visits Chicago Church

Fred Simonian

**O**ver the weekend of February 3, the Armenian Evangelical Church in Chicago had the privilege of having Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), pay a visit. It being Vartanantz Sunday, he was asked to preach during the Worship Service and to be the keynote speaker at the afternoon Vartanantz Commemoration organized by the Chicago Lodge Avarayr #4 of the Knights of Vartan. The subject of the invigorating speech was "Vartan, Then and Now." The presentation took place in the Church Sanctuary followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. Attendance at the Vartanantz Commemoration was very good and included members of all four churches of the Chicago Community. It was a sight of major value when members of three Apostolic Churches participated in the Ceremonies.

Mr. Filian provided an exceptional speech highlighting the importance and value of Vartanantz for the Armenians. The interdenominational celebration was greatly valued. Mr. Filian pointed out that the reason for the survival of the Armenian people can be attributed to the following three events: Armenians accepting Christianity as a national religion; the discovery of the Armenian Alphabet to translate the Bible known as "Queen of Translations;" and Vartanantz Martyr's strong faith that was pursued and resulted 30 years



Levon Filian with Pastor of St. James Apostolic Church,  
Rev. Father Hovhan-Khoja Eynatian and his wife.

later as the Persian Emperor accepted the freedom of worship of a heroic nation.

While in Chicago, Mr. Filian arranged meetings with two families, Dr. Henry Hadidian and his wife, Carol, and Dr. Henry Giragos and his family. We were greatly welcomed with lunch at the Hadidian's and dessert at the Giragos' home. Mr. Filian received documents from Dr. Hadidian to the Anjar property of his father, Rev. Aram Hadidian. He also paid a visit to Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian and attended the Willow Creek Church whose Senior Pastor is Bill Hybels. □



Levon Filian with Dr. Henry Hadidian and his wife, Carol Hadidian



L to R: Levon Filian, Fred Simonian, Jeanette Giragos, Dr. Henry Giragos, Dr. Henry Hadidian, and Rene Giragos

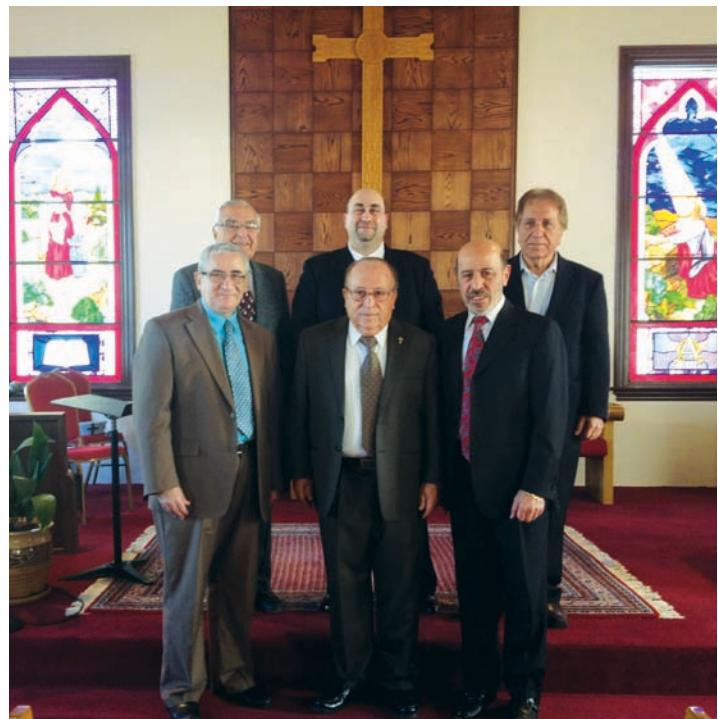
# AMAA Holds Board Meeting

## Pays Visits to Churches

The AMAA held its March Board meeting at the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church in Pasadena, CA on March 2. Following the meeting, Board members and spouses were invited to AMAA President Joe Zeronian's home for a reception and delicious dinner. Our thanks to Joe and Marilyn for their warm hospitality and graciousness.

On Sunday, March 3, Dr. Zeronian and several members of the AMAA staff preached and spoke at several churches in the area. Dr. Zeronian spoke at the United Armenian Congregational Church in Los Angeles. Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director, spoke at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, CA. David Aynejian, AMAA Finance Director, visited the Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena and delivered the English sermon. Armen Beylerian, AMAA Operations and Field Director, spoke at the Christian Outreach for Armenians in Glendale. Two services were held, the first in Armenian and the second in English. Harout Nercessian, AMAA Representative in Armenia, spoke at the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church in Downey.

The members of these churches were very receptive to these presentations and to the work of the AMAA in Armenia and elsewhere. □



AMAA Finance Director David Aynejian at Cilicia Armenian Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA. Pictured front row L to R: Dr. John Ahmaranian, Rev. Kevork Terian, Arsene Eurejian. Back row L to R: Rev. Dr. John Khanjian, David Aynejian and Khachig Demirchyan.



Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian and Levon Filian visiting with AMAA supporter and donor Belle Ashodian in California.



Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian visiting the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, CA.

## Bay Area AMAA Christmas Luncheon

In mid-December, Friends of the AMAA – Peninsula Chapter held a Christmas Luncheon for 40 guests at the home of Ike and Kris Gulessarian in Los Altos, CA. The guests enjoyed a delicious lunch, bake sale, raffle and a selection of joyous Christmas carols. In addition, Rev. Nerses Balabanian and his wife Sevan gave video presentation on the role of Jesus in our lives. The luncheon, sponsored by members of the Friends of the AMAA – Peninsula Chapter, raised \$1,900 to help support the education of Armenian children in Beirut and Syria. □

**L to R:** Kris Gulessarian, Aileen Gulessarian, Aline Richards, Nora Balabanian and Marina Sweeney



## AMAA Spring Fund Raiser at United Armenian Congregational Church

Virginia Abajian

On March 3, the sun shone brightly on a gathering of United Armenian Congregational Church families as they enjoyed fellowship with one another on the Church patio, and it was a bonus to know they were contributing toward AMAA projects. The Missions Committee served breakfast to members of the congregation after the 9:00 am service, and then provided lunch for those attending the later service.

In addition, lahmajune and boreg were presold and picked up on that day. Vart Mazmanian willingly gave her heart and time to making over 900 lahmajune and boreg in total. The entire Missions Committee worked together to aid Mrs. Mazmanian setting up, decorating, baking egg casseroles, baking cookies, serving and cleaning up.

The Church family not only was fed delicious meals, but also heard how the Lord is working through the AMAA. Joseph Zeronian, AMAA President, spoke at both services informing the congregation of the ongoing AMAA projects focusing specifically on aid to Syria.

May the Lord continue to bless the work of the Missions Committee and the AMAA as they work hand in hand to bring aid to those in need. □

## Executive Director Visits Merdinian School

In November, 2012, Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, visited the C. and E. Merdinian School in Sherman Oaks, CA. He met with Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Board President, and Lina Arslanian, Principal, to discuss the significant improvements made at the School within the last two years. Mr. Filian met school leaders and was the guest speaker at the Chapel.

"We take this opportunity to thank the Merdinian Board members, faculty, staff and parents for this wonderful mission," said Mr. Filian. □



# Rev. Melkonian Visits Fresno, CA

Roseann Emerzian Saliba

In the late fall, friends gathered at the home of Edward and Roseann Saliba in Fresno, CA for an evening of fellowship.

The honored guests were Rev. Mgrdich and Mrs. Houri Melkonian.

Thanksgiving was the theme for the evening, with special gratitude for the Armenian Missionary Association of America for its work around the world, and for Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian's ministry as Minister to Ministers in Armenia for the AMAA.

Through a powerpoint presentation, Rev. Melkonian reported on his work to train the pastors in Armenia, some who have had little formal training. Rev. Melkonian stated his goals, which included the development of sister churches between the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) churches and those in Armenia to provide moral support and encouragement and plans for future retreats and training in Beirut and California for



the pastors in Armenia to learn firsthand the responsibilities and duties of their pastorate.

Rev. Melkonian's report was received with gratitude and excitement for the work being done in Armenia, and prayers were offered for Badveli and Houri that God will continue to use them in mighty ways for His glory. □

## Executive Director Visits With Thousand Oaks Fellowship

On November 13, friends of the Thousand Oaks Christian Fellowship were hosted at the home of Puzant and Hasmig Sherbetjian in Westlake Village, CA to meet with AMAA Executive Director Levon Filian and Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, AMAA Minister to Ministers in Armenia. After a delicious dinner and fellowship, the Executive Director updated the guests with the current mission and service ministry of AMAA. The Thousand Oaks Christian Fellowship raises funds to provide scholarships to College and University students in Armenia. □



## Field Director Visits Detroit Women's Club

Amen Beylerian, Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Field and Operations Director, visited with The Detroit Armenian Women's Club (DAWC) on March 7 in Detroit. The Club, which meets periodically to share a meal and talk about matters of mutual interest, is composed of greater Detroit Area Armenian women from all denominations and groups.

They invited the AMAA to share its mission and projects at their March meeting. After a wonderful lunch with over 30 women, Mr. Beylerian presented a powerpoint presentation on the current major mission projects of the AMAA and distributed the new AMAA brochure "Our Mission in Motion."

The reception was very warm with lots of questions from the attendees about various aspects of AMAA work in Armenia and elsewhere. The response by this group was extremely encouraging for the AMAA as several children were sponsored by the attendees and other donations were pledged by the DAWC.

The AMAA looks forward to working with the DAWC in the future to provide them with information about what their gifts have done and where other needs are developing.

The AMAA wishes to thank Leslie Balian, Chairwoman of the DAWC, for the opportunity to attend the meeting and to Debbie Morgan for her help. "We wish for God's blessings on this and similar groups of Armenian women who care for all our brothers and sisters around the world," said Mr. Beylerian. □

## Central High School Alumni Association Holds Annual Banquet

The Armenian Evangelical Central High School (CHS) Alumni Association of the Greater Los Angeles area held its Annual Banquet at the Phoenicia Banquet Hall in Glendale, CA on March 2. About 175 alumni and friends of the School were present. Raffi Kendirjian served as Master of Ceremonies and Rev. Sarkis Karaminassian offered the invocation. Sahag Shamlan, Chairperson of the Alumni Association, briefed the guests about the School.

Maral Deyirmenjian, Principal of Central High School, who traveled from Beirut, Lebanon to take part in the Banquet Program, presented a video about the latest achievements and the construction taking place at the School.

On behalf of the CHS Alumni Association, the "Teacher of the Year" award was presented to Anahid Soukiasian and "Alumnus of the Year" award to Khachig Khachadourian. Hratch Mouradian, Treasurer of the Association, presented Mrs. Deyirmenjian with a check for \$68,000 on behalf of the Alumni Association as part of the Alumni Association's ongoing support to the School.

Mrs. Deyirmenjian presented Mr. Mouradian with an engraved plaque for his dedicated work as the Treasurer of the Alumni Association and for serving as the liaison between the Alumni and the School.



**CHS Alumni Committee members - Sitting L to R:** Sara Antikadjian, Maral Deyirmenjian (CHS Principal), Arpi Gevudjelian, Lucy Miridjian (Secretary), Raffi Kerbabian. **Standing L to R:** Sonia Aintablian, Palig Kilaghbian-Karaminassian, Varoujan Charkhedian, Hratch Mouradian (Treasurer), Ara Kalfayan (Vice-Treasurer), Raffi Kendirjian, Sahag Shamlan (Chairperson).

During the Banquet, the guests were entertained with special Armenian music by Soloists Raffi Kerbabian and Sebouh Najarian and dance presentations by Lori Injejkian and Anais Frounjian. The CHS Alumni Association sincerely appreciates the generous donations of the contributors to support the needs of the School. □

## Shamlan-Tatikian High School Alumni Association Holds Second Annual Banquet

The Armenian Evangelical Shamlan-Tatikian Secondary School Alumni Association of Greater Los Angeles held its second Annual Banquet at the Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena, CA on March 15. The Program kicked off with a welcome from Steven Hovagimian, who served as Master of Ceremonies, followed by the invocation given by Rev. Joseph Matossian, Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. Following remarks of Zaven Hanessian, Chair of the Alumni Association, Vartoug Balekjian, Principal of the School, thanked the Alumni Association for its continuous support, and reported on the achievements and the urgent financial needs of the School. In her concluding remarks, Miss Balekjian extended the School's appreciation to Mr. Hanessian for his dedicated service as Chair of the Alumni Association.

During the Banquet, George and Vivian Lousararian were honored for their generous donation to the School and Rev. Berdj Djambazian was honored for his dedicated service as the Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Nor Marash, Bourdj Hammoud during the civil war years of Lebanon.

The Banquet's Keynote Speaker was Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, a former student of the School. Rev. Sarmazian emphasized the importance of an Armenian Christian education in the Diaspora.

Renowned Armenian Singer Saripi Kelechian and the Lilia Dance Group entertained over 200 guests at the Banquet. Rev. Kevork Terian, Pastor of the Cilicia Armenian Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA, offered the closing prayer and Benediction. □



**Shamlan Tatikian Alumni Committee members - L to R:** Arous Albarian, Liza Jiguarian Manoyan, Kohar Jarlekian Geukgeuzian, Zaven Hanessian, Minas B. Fournouzian, Victoria Kechichian, Taline Derartinian.

## Shant Barsoumian Ordained To The Christian Ministry

**A**t the request of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, MI, the ordination service of Shant Barsoumian took place on March 10 at the United Armenian Congregational Church (UACC) of Los Angeles, CA in the presence of a large gathering of members of the Greater Los Angeles area churches, family and friends. Rev. Vahan Tootikian, Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council and Pastor Emeritus of the Detroit Church, delivered the Armenian sermon and Rev. Jason Matossian, Parish Development Pastor of UACC, delivered the English sermon. Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Senior Pastor of UACC, gave the Exhortation to the ordained and the congregation.

Rodney Keteyan, Moderator of the Detroit Church Council, on behalf of the Church, officially requested the ordination of Shant Barsoumian, who was called to be the minister of their church. The Ordination Service was conducted by several clergymen headed by Rev. Joseph Matossian, Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA). Rev. Matossian asked Shant several questions that were intended to probe his readiness for his calling to be the shepherd of God's flock. After responding to all questions affirmatively, all clergymen present were asked to lay their hands on Shant during the prayer of ordination.

Soon after the ordination ceremony, Shant's parents, Vahe and Flora Barsoumian, were asked to come forward. They put the Ministerial Robe, which was presented by

the Detroit Church, on their newly ordained son. This was followed by the presentation of the Stole, which was given by the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America.

The ordination service concluded with the Benediction of Rev. Shant Barsoumian.

A reception followed at the Avazian Hall of the Church where guests had an opportunity to congratulate Rev. Barsoumian on his ordination and his new ministry in Detroit.□



## Rev. Dr. Ara Heginian Installed As Pastor In Rhode Island

**T**he Rev. Dr. Ara Heghinian was installed as Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Cranston, RI on January 20. Presiding over the service was Rev. Nishan Bakalian, AEUNA Moderator. The charge to the congregation was given by Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian and the charge to the Pastor by Rev. Gregory Haroutunian. Among the congregation was Levon Fillian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, and visitors from sister churches in New England and Toronto. A reception held by Church members followed in the Fellowship Hall of the newly purchased Church.□



### AMAA Offers Scholarships To Armenian Students In the US and Canada

May 1 is the deadline to submit applications for the AMAA Scholarship Program which is open to students who attend colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Qualified students can request scholarship applications for the 2013-2014 school year by contacting the AMAA at 201-265-2607 or [amaa@amaa.org](mailto:amaa@amaa.org).

The AMAA Scholarship Committee granted \$171,000 in scholarships to 75 students for the 2012-2013 school year. The AMAA scholarships are provided from special endowment and scholarship funds established by donors who treasure educational excellence and achievements.

## Churches of Worcester, MA Sponsor Second Annual Dance

**O**n Saturday, April 13, the Armenian Churches in Worcester County, MA are joining together once again to sponsor a dance which will benefit the AMAA's Armenian Children's Milk Fund as well as Voice of the Armenian Church and Syria Relief.

The dance, featuring live Armenian music, will be held at the Armenian Church of Our Saviour Cultural Center, 34 Boynton Street, Worcester, MA from 7 p.m. to midnight.

The sponsoring churches are the Armenian Church of the Martyrs, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, Armenian Church of Our Saviour and the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church. For tickets and further information, please contact Stephen Papazian, 508-842-7898 between 6:30 and 9:00 p.m.

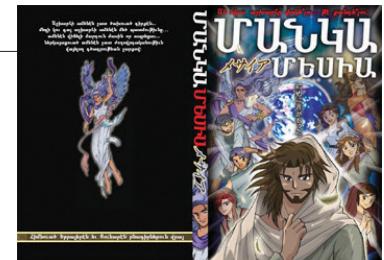
Last year, the local Armenian community showed generous support of the event, which drew over 300 people and raised over \$9,000 for Armenian causes.

The mission of the Armenian Children's Milk Fund is to assist those children in Armenia who would otherwise not receive adequate nutrition. The Fund provides soy-based Isomil infant formula to needy infants during their first year of life and focuses on children whose mothers are ill, absent or for some reason are physically unable to breastfeed, and whose families are too poor to purchase formula. For over 20 years, the Milk Fund has been able to supply formula to over 10,000 Armenian infants.

For those in Worcester County unable to attend the dance but would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to your church and indicate that the donation is for the Armenian dance. □

## Manga Messiah Scripture Comic Available

**T**he Bible Society in the Gulf has launched the *Manga Messiah* Scripture comic book in Armenian. Based on the popular Japanese *Manga* comic format, this publication has proven to be a huge hit around the globe and has been translated into more than 20 languages, including Danish, German, Russian, Norwegian, English, Spanish, French and Armenian.



*Manga Messiah* is an account of the life of Jesus based on the four Gospels and told in 288 color pages. It includes a map of Galilee, Samaria, and Judea and illustrated character profiles of the 12 apostles and other key people in the Bible.

The Armenian Missionary Association of Canada (AMAC) is proud to offer this highly engaging, cutting-edge book which presents the Scriptures so appealingly to young people. The *Manga Messiah* in Armenian was published in 2012 on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Armenian Book printing.

"Our ultimate goal is Evangelism," said Mihran Jizmejian, Executive Director of the AMAC. "We aim to reach out to young Armenians who read Armenian, in an ever-changing and challenging time with the message of the Gospel in an attractive and compelling format."

The *Manga Messiah* (\$10.00 per copy plus shipping) can be ordered from the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652, 201-265-2607, email: amaa@amaa.org or from the AMAC, 45 Fairglen Avenue, Toronto, ON M1T1G8, Canada, 416-498-6400, email: amacinc84@gmail.com. There is a 20% discount for large orders. □

## AMAA Welcomes Jean Bedrosian

**J**ean Bedrosian has joined the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) as Marketing Manager. She will be concentrating on rebranding the AMAA with a new look for all AMAA printed materials as well as relaunching the AMAA website with new content, navigation and interactive features. The new website will be introduced at the AMAA Annual Meeting on October 12.

A member of the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ, Jean is a graduate of Drew University in Madison, NJ with a double major in Studio Art and Art History. She has also completed her pre-thesis courses for a M.S. in Communication Design from the Pratt Institute in New York City.

Jean has a varied background in marketing, web design, social media and design. She has worked as Manager of Marketing Programs Development for Hunter Douglas Window Fashions, Web Project Manager on the Hershey Company account, Web Project and Marketing Manager for the Gospel & Culture Project and as a freelance Social Media Manager for Compassionate Care Hospice. Jean has won a number of awards for her work and was honored by the YWCA of Bergen County with a Tribute to Women and Industry Award for excellence in marketing for Hunter Douglas Window Fashions.



# Rev. Haroutune Selimian Visits The United States

Rev. Haroutune Selimian, head of the Armenian Evangelical Community of Syria, had an opportunity to visit the United States from February 6 to 13, to attend the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington D.C. and to meet with key people to discuss the situation in Syria and to ask for their support and prayers.

In Washington D.C., he met with several Congressmen and with the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) and its Director Suren Hamparian.

On February 10, Rev. Selimian made a presentation about the current situation in Syria at the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Headquarters. Over 60 people attended the presentation and reception that followed. Levon Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA, introduced Rev. Selimian who thanked the AMAA for its devotion, support and endless assistance for the less fortunate population of Syrian Armenians.

Rev. Selimian began his presentation with a quick overview of the information that is reported in the news media and how to differentiate what is true and what is plain rumor. He spoke about the number of businesses that have been destroyed and the number of families who have been displaced from their homes and are unable to go back. He explained how the children are studying with blankets and candles since there is no electricity or heat. Rev. Selimian encouraged those in attendance to keep on giving because donations keep Syrian establishments going and will help keep the schools open.

On February 11, the AMAA Board held a teleconference meeting with Rev. Selimian. He shared his concerns, thanked the



*L to R: Levon Filian, Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan and Rev. Haroutune Selimian.*

AMAA for its support and urged them to continue their prayers and financial assistance to our brothers and sisters in Syria.

On February 13, Mr. Filian and Rev. Selimian were hosted by Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of the Eastern US. The main topic of their conversation was to help the Armenian Community of Syria in every way possible and to try to alleviate their current state. Mr. Filian thanked the Archbishop for his hospitality and they renewed their understanding of cooperation between the two churches.

They also visited the United Nations and met with Armenian Ambassador to the United Nations Garen Nazarian and the United Nations Near East Committee.

"The AMAA will hold all of Syria in our prayers and will do our utmost to help our brothers and sisters financially," said Mr. Filian. □



*Guests at the AMAA Headquarters after Rev. Haroutune Selimian's presentation about the current situation in Syria.*



# AMAA Concert to Benefit Syria Relief

featuring Mezzo Soprano

*Solange Merdinian*

**Sunday, May 19 at 2 pm** hosted by

**Armenian Evangelical Church**, 152 East 34th St., NYC

**Tickets: \$25** (\$15 for students). Dessert reception to follow.

For tickets, contact AMAA: 201-265-2607 | [info@amaa.org](mailto:info@amaa.org)

**Transport from/to NJ:** A bus will depart the Armenian Presbyterian Church, 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus at 12:30 pm SHARP. Round-trip fare: \$20 per person (includes light lunch). Seating is limited.

**Parking at Central Parking System**, 222 Lexington Avenue, NYC (between 33 & 34 Streets, next to Murray Park Garage). Only Central Parking System tickets can be validated and paid (\$7) at the Church.

## Help Us Surpass Our Goal!

**AMAA GOAL: \$500,000**

**RAISED to-date: \$231,000**

## Did You Know?

**It's getting worse every day, especially for Armenians in Aleppo.**



- Lack of food, shelter, medical care.
- Schools under pressure to close.
- Schools have no heat or electricity.
- Students study with blankets & candles.

**Can't make the concert? Give your gift today!**

**Visit [amaa.org](http://amaa.org) or call 201-265-2607 to donate.**

# Վեր. Յարութիւն Սելիմեանի Այցը Միացեալ Նահանգներ

**Վ**եր. Յարութիւն Սելիմեան, Համայնքապետը Սուրբոյ Հայ Աւետարանական Համայնքի, այցելեց Միացեալ Նահանգներ Փետրուար 4-19-ի օրերուն, մասնակցելու Ուաշինգթոնի մէջ կայացող Ազգային Աղօրքի Նախանաշին (National Prayer Breakfast), որ տեղի ունեցաւ Հինգշաբթի, Փետրուար 7-ին: Ասոր առընթեր ան մասնակցեցաւ նաև Միջին Արևելքը ընդհանրապէս եւ Սուրբիան յատկապէս յուզող ընկերածաղկան իրադարձութիւններու ժամանական հանդիպումին:

Ուաշինգթոնի մէջ ան նաև այցելեց Միացեալ Նահանգներու Հայ Դատի Կեդրոնական Գրասենեակը եւ տեսակցութիւն ունեցաւ Կեդրոնի Տնօրին՝ Տիար Արամ Սուրբեն Համբարեանի եւ տեղույն Կեդրոնական Կոմիտէութեան հետ:

Կիրակի, Փետրուար 10-ին, երեկոյեան ժամը 5-ին, վեր. Սելիմեան ընդառաջնով Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան հրաւերին, լուսարանական դասախոսութիւն մը տուած Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Նիւծըրգի Կեդրոնին մէջ, վեր առնելով Սուրբոյ դիմագրաւած այժմու պատերազմական իրավիճակը: Հանդիպումին կիզակէտը հանդիսացող Սուրբիահայութիւնը շահագրգոնեց բոլոր ներկաները: Զիրենք հետաքրքրող տեղեկութիւնները ստանալէ անդին անցելով, ներկաները պատրաստակամութիւն յայտնեցին իրենց օգնութեան ձեռքը երկարելու Սուրբիահանակ Հայերուն:

Երկուշաբթի, Փետրուար 11-ին, Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Վարչական Խորհուրդը հեռախոսային յատուկ հանդիպում մը ունեցաւ վեր. Սելիմեանի հետ: Վեր. Սելիմեան անգամ մը եւս ներկայացուց Սուրբոյ ներկայ իրավիճակը եւ շնորհակալութիւն յայտնեց անոնց աղօրքներուն եւ աշակցութեան համար: Ան խնդրեց որ շարունակեն աղօրքել Սուրբոյ համար եւ իրենց նիւթական աշակցութեամբ նեցուկ կանգնին Սուրբոյ մեր եղբայրներուն ու բոյքերուն:

Չորեքշաբթի Փետրուար 13-ին Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Գործադիր Տնօրին՝ Պրե. Լեւոն Ֆիլեան եւ վեր. Յարութիւն Սելիմեան հիւրընկալուցան Միաց-



Վեր. Յարութիւն Սելիմեան, Տիար Կարեն Նազարեան եւ Տիար Լեւոն Ֆիլեան:

եալ Նահանգներու Արեւելեան Թեմի Առաջնորդ՝ Գերաշնորհ Տէր Օշական Արք. Զոլյոնանի կողմէ: Անոնց հաղորդակցութեան առանցքը դարձաւ Սուրբոյ մէջ տիրող ներկայ կացութեան մէջ Սուրբիահայ ժողովուրդին տիրութիւնը ընելու պարտաւորութիւնը: Սրբազն Հայրը իր պատրաստակամութիւնը յայտնեց ոչ մէկ շանքինայելու, օգտակար բլալու Սուրբարեակ Հայ ուրեան վիճակը մէղմացնելու: Պրե. Լեւոն Ֆիլեան իր կարգին շնորհակալութիւն յայտնեց Առաջնորդին հիւրընկալ զգացողութեան համար եւ այս առքիւ վերանորոգուեցան համագործակցութեան տրամադրութիւններն ու հասկացողութիւնը զոյզ եկեղեցիներու միջեւ: Նոյն օրը անոնք այցելեցին նաև Միացեալ Ազգերու գրասենեակները եւ հանդիպում ունեցան Հայաստանի դեսպան Տիար Կարեն Նազարեանի եւ Մերձաւոր Արեւելքի Յանձնականութիւնի հետ:

«Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը պիտի շարունակէ աղօրքել Սուրբոյ համար եւ ոչ մէկ շանքին պիտի խնայէ օգնութեան ձեռքը երկարելու նեղութեան մէջ գտնուող մեր եղբայրներուն ու բոյքերուն», ըստ Պրե. Ֆիլեանը: □



Վեր. Յարութիւն Սելիմեանի Հանդիպումը Հայ Դատի Գրասենեակին մէջ:



# ԻՆՉՈ՞Լ

Վեր. Սերոք Ճ. Մկրտիչեան\*

**Մ**արդ արարածը իր ամենօրեայ կեանքի ընթացքին երբ ոչ դրական պայմաններու մէջ գտնուի, կը հարցնէ Աստուծոյ. - «Ինչո՞ւ...»:

Եթէ Աստուածաշունչը սերտելու ըլլանք պիտի տեսնենք, զանազան տեղեր, մարդիկ կը հարցնեն Աստուծոյ «Ինչո՞ւ...»:

Մենք ալ, Հալեպի մէջ, մեր արտակարգ առօրեայէն փիած շատ մը «ինչո՞ւ»ներ կը հարցնենք Աստուծոյ:

Հաց, ջուր, ելեկտրականութիւն, հեռածայն եւ այլ բաներու չգյութիւնը, կ'առաջնորդէ մարդ արարածը հարցնելու. - «Ինչո՞ւ» այս բոլորը ո՞վ Տէր:

Այս բոլորին կողքին, կ'ապրինք պատերազմական վիճակներու մէջ վախը, անապահովութիւնը եւ տնտեսական տագնապները ալ աւելիով կ'ընկճեն ու կը յուսահատեցնեն մարդ արարածը եւ հարցումը կը շարունակուի. - «Ինչո՞ւ...»:

Միևս կողմէ եթէ Աւետարանները սերտելու ըլլանք, պիտի տեսնենք, թէ Տէր Յիսուս ալ մարդ արարածին կը հարցնէ «Ինչո՞ւ...»:

## 1. ԻՆՉՈ՞Ւ ՎԱԽԿՈՏ ԷՔ

Մարկոսի Աւետարանի 4րդ գլուուն 35-41 համարներուն մէջ, կը տեսնենք, Տէր Յիսուս եւ Իր աշակերտները նաև կը նստին ու փոթորիկի կը հանդիպին: Մինչ Տէր Յիսուս կը քնանար, աշակերտները կը սկսին վախնալ:

Տէր Յիսուս կը հարցնէ. «Ինչո՞ւ այդպէս վախւկոտ էք» (հ. 40):

Աշակերտները վախնալու պատճառ չունեին: Տէրը իրենց հետ էք: Սակայն աշակերտները փորձութեան մատնուեցան եւ փոխանակ

Տէր Յիսուսի նայելու, անոնք փոթորիկին եւ ալիքներուն նայեցան եւ վախցան: Իսկ վախին պատճառն ալ հաւատք չունենալն էք:

Տէր Յիսուս կը շարունակէ հարցնել. «Ինչպէս ս կ'ըլլայ որ հաւատք չունիք» (հ. 40):

Այսինքն, մարդ արարածին եւ յատկապէս հաւատացեալին համար վախկոտութիւնը կը նկատուի անհաւատութեան եւ կամ թերահաւատութեան պտուղներէն մէկը:

Անկասկած, մարդ արարածի ապրած կեանքը լեցուն է տարբեր տեսակի փոթորիկներով:

Հայ ազգի զաւակներուն համար ալ մեծազոյն փոթորիկը ցեղասպանութիւնը, փորձեց վախցնել, տապալել եւ պարպել հայը իր հաւատքն եւ ազգային գիտակցութեան մէջ:

Սակայն հայը, Աստուծոյ շնորհքով, մասց հաստատ իր հաւատքին եւ ազգային պատկանելիութեան գիտակցութեան մէջ:

Շրջանէ մը ի վեր տարբեր տեսակի փոթորիկներ՝ «ցունամիներ» կը հարուածէն մեր կեանքը:

Ուշադիր ըլլանք: Միշտ փոթորիկներու պիտի հանդիպինք: Չնայինք փոթորիկներուն ու չվախնանք, այլ կեղրոնանանք հայ ազգը յարուցանող Փրկչին վրայ եւ հաստատ ու հաւատարիմ մասնք հաւատքին մէջ:

Տէր Յիսուս կ'ըսէ. «Աշխարհի մէջ նեղութիւն պիտի ունենաք, բայց քաջասի ըստ եղէք, Ես աշխարհին յաղթեցի» (Յովհ. 16. 33):



## 2. ԻՆՉՈ՞Ւ ՀՈԳ Կ'ԸՆԵՔ

Սատրելուի Աւետարանի ճրդ գլխուն 24-34 համարներուն մէջ, Տէր Յիսուս կը սորվեցնէ Իր հետեւրդներուն մտահոգուիլ էականով՝ Աստուծոյ թագաւորութեամբ եւ Անոր արդարութեամբ, փոխանակ մտահոգուելու ուտելով, խմելով եւ հազուելով: Տէր Յիսուս կը հարցնէ: «Ինչո՞ւ հոգ կ'ընէք» (հ. 28):

Բնական է, որ մարդ արարածը միշտ պիտի փափաքի առողջ եւ ուրախ ըլլալ, նաեւ ունենալ սրտի, մտքի եւ հոգիի խաղաղութիւն:

Մտահոգութիւնը առողջութեան, երջանկութեան եւ խաղաղութեան մեծագոյն թշնամին է:

Մարդ արարածը հոգ ընելով բան մը չի կրնար փոխել: Տէր Յիսուս կը հարցնէ. «Ո՞վ կրնայ իր հոգ ընելովը իր հասակին վրայ կանգուն մը աւելցնել» (հ. 27):

Ուրեմն, փոխանակ մտահոգուելու եւ հոգ ընելու, մարդ արարածը կանչուած է իր հոգը ձգել Անոր, որ Ամենագէտ եւ Ամենակարող է: Ան ստեղծեց, կեանք տուաւ եւ Ինք կը հոգայ Իր զաւակները: Պետրոս Առաքեալ կ'ըսէ. «Զեր ամէն հոգը Անոր վրայ ձգեցէ ք. Վասնզի Անիկա ձեզի համար կը հոգայ» (Ա. Պետր. 5-7):

Իսկութեան մէջ մտահոգուիլը եւ հոգ ընելը, նոյնպէս, կը նկատուին անհաւատութեան եւ կամ թերահաւատութեան պտուղներէն մէկը:

Հաւատացեալը կ'ունենայ կատարեալ վստահութիւն եւ հաւատը Իր Զօր Վրայ, այն քաջ գիտակցութեամբ, թէ ինչպէս Հայր մը կը հոգայ եւ կը խնամէ իր զաւակները, նոյնպէս Հայր Աստուած կը խնամէ Իր զաւակները: Ուրեմն «Հոգ մի՛ ընէք ըսելով. Ի՞նչ պիտի ուտենք, կամ ի՞նչ պիտի խմենք, կամ ի՞նչ պիտի հազնինք: (Քանզի այդ բոլոր բաները հեթանոսները կը խնդրեն). Վասնզի ձեր երկնաւոր Հայրը գիտէ թէ այդ բոլոր բաները ձեզի պէտք են: Բայց առաջ խնդրեցէք Աստուծոյ թագաւորութիւնը եւ անոր արդարութիւնը ու այդ բոլոր բաներն ալ ձեզի պիտի տրուին» (Մատթ. 6. 31-33):

Երջանէ մը ի վեր մեր ընտանիքները, մտահոգութեան պատճառաւ, կորսնցուցած են սրտի, մտքի եւ հոգիի խաղաղութիւնը:

Յիշենք, թէ միայն Տէր Յիսուս է որ խաղաղութիւն կու տայ մեզի: Տէր Յիսուս կ'ըսէ. «Խաղաղութիւն կը թողում ձեզի, ի մ խաղաղութիւնս կու տամ ձեզի, ո՛չ թէ ինչպէս աշխարհս կու տայ՝ ես ձեզի կուտամ: Սրտերնիդ շխովի ու չվախնայ» (Յովի. 14. 27):

Հետեւաբար չմտահոգուինք այլ վստահինք Յարուցեալ Փրկչին:

Չմոռնանք թէ խաւար խաչելութենէն ետք, ծագեց Յարութեան արշալոյսը:

Այսինքն, ուշ կամ կանուխ, մութ եւ սեւ ամպերը պիտի փարատին եւ կրկին պիտի փայլի արեւը եւ Աստուծոյ արդարութիւնը պիտի հաստատուի:

Այսօր, Հալէպի մէջ եւ կամ Արեւմտեան քաղաքներու մէջ, մարդ արարածը Տէր Յիսուսի կը հարցնէ «Ինչո՞ւ...»: Բայց իւրաքանչիւր անձի ու ընտանիքի «Ինչո՞ւ»ն կը տարբերի միւսէն:

Իսկ, Տէր Յիսուս կը հարցնէ մարդ արարածին. - Ինչո՞ւ վախկոտ էք եւ ինչո՞ւ հոգ կ'ընէք:

Արդեօք հաւատը չէ՝ մասցած: Արդեօք չէ՝ պ վստահիր Բնծի:

Մոոցա՞ք ինչպէս ձեզ ազատեցի թուրքին եաթաղանէն որ փորձեց միայն մէկ Հայ ձգել եւ այն ալ թանգարանին մէջ:

Մոոցա՞ք ինչպէս ձեզ յարուցանեցի Տէր Զօրի կիզիչ անապատէն եւ նոր կեանք շնորհեցի ձեզի:

Մոոցա՞ք թէ խաչելութենէն ետք տեղի ունեցաւ Հրաշափառ Յարութիւն:

Ուրեմն, վերադարձէ ք ձեր պապերու հաւատքին, քաջասիրտ եղէք եւ միշտ յիշեցէք թէ Հայ ազգը Տէր Զօրի անապատէն եւ Քրիստոսը մտուներէն յարուցանող Աստուածը՝ Էմմանուէլ (մեզի) ձեզի հետ է:

Հետեւաբար՝ չվախնանք եւ չմտահոգուինք Տէրը մեզի հետ է. «Ահա ամէն օր Ես ձեզի հետ եմ մինչեւ աշխարհիս վերջը» (Մատթ. 28. 20): Ամէն: □

\* Վեր. Սերոբ Ճ. Մկրտիչեան Հովհան է Հալէպի Հայ Աւետարանական Էմմանուէլ Եկեղեցիին

## Parouhi Agnerian

Parouhi Agnerian (nee Mitilian) went to be with her Lord on November 26, 2012, after a brief illness. She was 92.

Parouhi was born in Iskenderoun, Turkey on September 26, 1920. She moved to Beirut, Lebanon, as a teenager and in 1939 married Rev. Hovhannes Agnerian. After serving as a minister's wife at the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Kessab, Tripoli, Damascus, and Nor Marash, she moved to Montreal, Canada with her husband, to join the rest of her family in 1974. Her happiest times were with her children, grandchildren and at her church activities.

Parouhi is lovingly remembered by her children Vartan (Laura), Hrayr (Michelle), Sheila (Gilles), Adrine (William), Dzovinar and Anoush (Vartkes); her very loved and cherished grandchildren Alain, Saro, Natasha (Richard), Maral (Stuart), Ara, Roupen, Ari, Tro, and Victoria; her great-grandchildren Christopher, Joshua, and Emily; her brother-in-law Apraham Agnerian and his sons Raffi (Lauren) and Varoujan (Seta). She is fondly remembered by her sisters Sirvart, Alice, Sirarpi, Gladys (Mardiros), and Mary (Hagop), as well as her many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband Rev. Hovhannes Agnerian.

The funeral service was held on December 3, 2012, in Montreal. Donations in her memory may be made to the AMAA (Armenian Missionary Association of America), 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 USA, to the Rev. Hovhannes Agnerian Memorial Fund. □



## Marc G. Comjean

Marc G. Comjean, a longtime supporter of the AMAA, passed away peacefully on December 7, 2012 in Concord, MA at the age of 81.

Son of the late Ardash and Adele Comjean, he was born in Cambridge, MA and raised in Newton, MA. He graduated from St. Mark's School and Harvard University. Following his time in the U.S. Army, he entered the family business, becoming Vice President and later owner of Harvard Motors in Somerville. He studied at Suffolk University Law School and served the Boston area as an attorney for 40 years. He served as President of the Concord Kiwanis Club, was a member of The 100 Club of Massachusetts



and was a New England Patriot's season ticket holder since 1971.

Marc was predeceased by his first wife, Judith, and is survived by his three sons, Craig, Bradford and Andrew. He is survived by his wife Anna, and her two children, Adam and Natalie, and seven grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on December 13. The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America. □

## Haroutune Jambazian

Haroutune Jambazian passed away on January 16, 2013 after a long illness. He was 75.

Harout was born in Jerusalem Palestine to Abraham and Ephronia Jambazian who were from Marash. He graduated from the Tarkmanchatz Armenian School in St. James Convent, Jerusalem. The family migrated to the United States in 1956 as displaced people from the Palestinian War. Harout worked with his parents at the family bakery, which was called the European Bakery in the Pasadena, CA Ralph's Stores.

Harout is survived by his two children, Nancy and Paul Jambazian, both who were raised by their Aunt and Uncle Derian, and his sisters Anahis Derian Booghoorjian, a long-time supporter of the AMAA, Mary and Agnive and many cousins. He is buried at Mount View Cemetery in Altadena, CA. □

## Martha Karkazian

Martha Karkazian of Fresno, CA passed away on February 23, 2013. She was 85.

Martha was born on February 20, 1928 in Bitias, Mousa Dagh to Hovhannes and Takouhi Keledjian. Martha grew up in her hometown along with her three sisters, Zaghib, Sona and Maro and her two brothers, George and Henry. When she was 12 years old the whole village of Mousa Dagh moved from Turkish rule as refugees to Anjar, Lebanon through Bassit, Syria. She and her family finally settled in Zahleh, Lebanon.

At the young age of 15, she found her passion as a seamstress. Within a few years she received certification for tailoring and was highly sought after for her craftsmanship and skill. She was so talented that she could even turn old military uniforms into beautiful women's wear.

Martha married Movses Karkazian in 1949 in Anjar and had four children, George, Salpy, Johnno and Ara, who became her pride and joy. She continued her tailoring and soon began creating wedding dresses for all the brides in Anjar.



In 1976, Martha came to the United States with her youngest son, Ara, settling down in Fresno and soon after the rest of the family joined them. She continued her love for seamstressing at The Warehouse and loved every minute of it.

Martha was a loving wife, sister, mother and grandmother. She always had time to feed visitors, family, and friends with delicious Armenian food. She was always filled with happiness and laughter and loved her family endlessly. She raised her children and grandchildren to follow the Lord and rejoice in God and all His glories, keeping this verse close to her heart: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice." Philippians 4:4. She and Movses had a happy and wonderful marriage of 64 years full of joy, laughter and love.

Martha is survived by her children, George Karkazian and his wife Susie, Salpy Adams and her husband Steve, Johnno Karkazian and his wife Zepure and Ara Karkazian and his wife Lena; her grandchildren, Nyrie, Talene, Tamar, Aleek, Ari, Patil, Moses and Armand. She is also survived by her two brothers and three sisters, along with many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to Charlie Keyan Armenian School of Fresno and to the Armenian Missionary Association of America for the Armenian Evangelical School in Anjar.

Funeral services were held on February 28 at the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA. □

## Vincent Kaye

Vincent Keshishian Kaye passed away on January 10, 2013 in Bloomfield Hills, MI at the age of 104.

He was born in Amasya, Turkey, the oldest of four children. The family moved to Troy, NY and then to Highland Park, MI. Up until his death, Vincent was the oldest living graduate of Lawrence Technology Institute in Southfield, MI. His passion was electrical engineering and he patented a 2 cycle engine when he was 92 years old. He was a lifetime member of the Knights of Vartan.

Vincent met his late wife, Rose Serrajian, at a junior league AGBU meeting when he was president. It was love at first sight and they were married for 66 years until Rose passed away in 2002.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Anne and Khalil Dirani, M.D., his granddaughter, Gena Rose, and his sister, Susan.



A funeral service, officiated by Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, was held January 14 at the Armenian Congregational Church in Southfield, MI. The family suggests that memorial donations be made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America in care of the Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Kay Endowment Fund for Armenian Relief or to the Armenian Congregational Church in Southfield, MI. □

## Josephina Keshishian

Josephina Keshishian, former lay preacher of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, passed away on January 23, 2013.

She was born in 1923 in Athens, Greece to Isahag and Shahnar, who were originally from Beirut, Lebanon. In 1925 Josephina's family moved to Bulgaria and until 1932 they lived in the sea side town of Varna. In 1932 her father, who had studied theology at the American University and also in Germany, was appointed as Pastor and leader of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Plovdiv.

Josephina lived in difficult times when the Communist regime came to Bulgaria and persecuted religious people, priests and pastors. In 1949 her father was imprisoned because of his faith and belief. After many months he was freed, but because he was a believer he couldn't work because he preached in Armenian and the Armenian Church was closed. Only the Bulgarian Church was left open. In 1965 he escaped to Germany and from there fled to France. Until 1993 he lived in Paris where he preached in French and in Armenian.

During the years of Communism, Josephina served and worked for the Bulgarian Congregational Church in Plovdiv. She had two sons, Eduard and Varujan, and three grandchildren, Joseph, Hrant and Karen.

In 1990, Rev. Hagopian visited Plovdiv from France and encouraged Josephina to start an Armenian group. Soon after, the Armenian Evangelical Church of Plovdiv was restored and over a 100 people came to church and to church activities to listen to Josephina's preaching and teaching. Josephina also worked with humanitarian groups to help needy Armenians and Bulgarians with food, clothing and medicine. Josephina's example led her two grandchildren Joseph and Hrant, to study Theology at the Near East School of Theology of Beirut, Lebanon from 1998-2001 to serve the Armenian and Bulgarian churches.

Josephina served the Armenian Evangelical Church of Plovdiv for more than 20

years. She retired in 2005 due to her age and her physical weakness. Since then the leader of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Plovdiv is her grandson, Hrant Keshishian. □

## George Mardoian

George Mardoian, whose family were strong supporters of the AMAA Milk Fund, passed away on January 16, 2013 in Woodbridge, CT. He was 89.



Born in Youngstown, OH, George was the son of Harry and Marion Mardoian who were immigrants from Aleppo, Syria. George completed his education after World War II at Rensselaer Polytechnic University in Troy, NY, earning a degree in mechanical engineering. He retired from Sikorsky Aircraft in 2001 as the oldest employee of the company. During World War II, George served during the Battle of the Bulge and the Rhineland Campaign and received the Bronze Star. He enjoyed playing golf at the Yale Golf Course in New Haven, CT, where he caddied as a young boy, became head caddy master, and then a charter member of the Club. He went on to become state amateur champ in 1959 and continued to enjoy the hobby and to win more tournaments in the years to follow.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; three children, Artin, Bryan and Jane, who serves on the AMAA NJ Orphan and Child Care Committee, and her husband, Robert Charshafian, and three grandsons, Eddie, Jimmy and Peter.

Funeral services were held January 22 in New Haven, CT. The family requests that donations be sent in memory of George to the Armenian Missionary Association of America Orphan and Child Care Program. □

## Karl Turekian

Karl Karekin Turekian, Professor of Geology and Geophysics Emeritus and Senior Research Scientist at Yale University, passed away on March 15, 2013 in North Haven, CT. He was 85.



Karl was the only child of Vaughan Thomas and Victoria Turekian, survivors of the Armenian Genocides of 1896 and 1915. He earned his BA degree in chemistry from Wheaton College in Illinois and his MA and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University. Professor Turekian joined the faculty at Yale

University in 1956 as the University's first geochemist. He remained on the Yale faculty for his entire career of 57 years.

Professor Turekian enjoyed an extremely productive career as a geochemist. His scientific research centered on the application of natural radioactive isotopes to the study of Earth, its atmosphere and oceans, with special focus on understanding the processes and impacts of change over time. He was part of the initial team of scientists who studied the moon rock brought back during the Apollo space missions.

Professor Turekian was the author of five books and hundreds of articles that were published in international journals and professional volumes and was recognized for his contributions with many awards. In February, Professor Turekian received the William Clyde DeVane Medal for distinguished teaching and scholarship from the Yale College Phi Beta Kappa chapter. He was known for his legendary "coffee hour" at Kline Geology Laboratory at Yale, where ideas flowed freely and were debated with verve. He took great joy in engagement with his students and his colleagues from around the world.

He is survived by his wife, Roxanne; his children, Karla Ann and Vaughan Charles; his daughter-in-law, Heather; two grandchildren and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Professor Turekian's life will take place in the future. The family suggests that memorials be sent to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Children's Hospital Foundation in Washington DC or to CT Hospice. □

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA NEWS.

- \* **John Baroushian**  
Chelsea, MA
- \* **Avedis Bogosian**  
Fresno, CA
- \* **Edward Derian**  
Detroit, MI
- \* **Rosemarie Goulian**  
Oradell, NJ
- \* **Haroutune Kiledjian**
- \* **Mary Messerlian**  
Fresno, CA
- \* **Zaven Sipantzi**  
Watertown, MA

\* Memorials designated for AMAA



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For more information, please contact the AMAA via phone: 201-265-2607 or email: [amaa@amaa.org](mailto:amaa@amaa.org)